CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A computer system, comprising:

a thin client;

a host context agent; and

a storage array, the storage array and the host context agent providing information to the thin client to be displayed on a graphical user interface of the thin client.

2. The computer system of Claim 1, the host context agent having a control capability and comprising a framework for executing code on a corresponding host computer in which the code pushes context information to the storage array from the corresponding host computer and allows information to be pulled out of the corresponding host computer by the thin client.

3. The computer system of claim 2, wherein the context information includes topology and host type information.

4. The computer system of Claim 1, the host context agent comprising an interface for plugging in host-dependent functions for information gathering and control on a corresponding host computer where a frame work for executing code is running.

5. The computer system of Claim 1, the host context agent having plug-in functionality.

6. The computer system of Claim 1, the host context agent comprising a framework for executing code on a corresponding host computer in which the code pushes context information to the storage array from the corresponding host computer and allows context information to be pulled out of the corresponding host computer by the thin client

wherein the context information includes topology and host type information, having an interface for plugging in host-dependent functions for information gathering and control on a corresponding host computer where the frame work for executing code is running, and having plug-in functionality.

7. The computer system of Claim 6, wherein mapping topology defining ports to hosts are stored in the storage array.

8. The computer system of Claim 1, wherein topology acquisition is automated.

9. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein the context information includes host cluster membership.

10. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein the control capability includes device registration.

11. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein the control capability includes management of services.

12. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein the control capability includes device scanning.

13. A recording medium readable by a computer in which a program is stored, the program for transmitting printing information from an information processing apparatus to an external apparatus comprising the steps of:

generating and sending a command for a host context information to a host computer having the host context information; and

generating and second a command to a storage array for host context information.

14. The recording medium of Claim 13, further comprising receiving the host context information from the storage array.

15. The recording medium of Claim 14, further comprising displaying the host context information on a graphical user interface.

16. The recording medium of Claim 15, the computer program at least primarily written in the JAVA language.

17. The recording medium of Claim 15, the computer program interfacing with host context agent framework that uses plug ins.

18. The recording medium of Claim 17, the host context agent framework being a Remote Procedure Call (RPC) server and the plug-ins being RPC procedures.

19. A method for host context access in storage array centric storage management interface, comprising:

making a request for host context data on a thin client;

generating and transmitting a provide first host context data command to multiple host computers;

generating and transmitting a provide second host context data command to a storage array.

20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising generating a first host context data transfer from the host computers to the storage array upon receipt of the first host context data command.

21. The method of Claim 20, further comprising updating the second host context data based on the first host context data.

22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising transmitting the second host context data to the thin client.

23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising displaying the second host context data.

24. The method of Claim 23, the method being implemented on a host context agent framework that uses plug ins.

25. The method of Claim 24, the host context agent framework being a Remote Procedure Call (RPC) server and the plug-ins being RPC procedures.

26. The method of Claim 23, the method employing Java's Remote Method Invocation as the method for thin-client-to-host communication.